

Mistaken, Non-Mistaken, Correct and Wrong Consciousnesses

ULTIMATE CONSCIOUSNESSES

An ultimate consciousness arises in dependence on ultimate analysis and is necessarily a mental consciousness. If it realizes its main object, it is a valid cognizer. Since its main object exists it is a correct consciousness; and depending on whether its main object appears to exist inherently or not, it is either a mistaken or a non-mistaken mind.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN or not etc.
Yogic direct perceiver	realizing	(e.g.) the emptiness of the “I”	NON-MISTAKEN because its main object does not appear to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly.
Inferential valid cognizer (conceptual consciousness)	realizing	(e.g.) the emptiness of the body	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly.
Correct assumption that arises in dependence on ultimate analysis (conceptual consciousness)	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) the emptiness of the body	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly.

CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES

A conventional consciousness does not arise in dependence on ultimate analysis. Whatever is a conventional consciousness is necessarily mistaken because its main object appears to exist inherently. If its main object exists, it is a correct consciousness; if its main object does not exist, it is a wrong consciousness. Three types of conventional consciousnesses are described here: conventional valid cognizer, correct conventional consciousness that does not realize its main object, and wrong conceptual consciousness.

CONVENTIONAL VALID COGNIZERS

A conventional valid cognizer realizes its main object. It is a correct consciousness because its main object exists.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
Nose consciousness (sense consciousness)	realizing	(e.g.) incense	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly.
Inferential cognizer (conceptual consciousness)	realizing	(e.g.) the impermanence of a situation	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly.

CORRECT CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES THAT DON'T REALIZE THEIR OBJECT

This type of conventional consciousness merely apprehends its main object without incontrovertibly knowing the object. It is a correct consciousness because its main object exists.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
Ear consciousness that is an awareness to which its object appears but is not ascertained	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) a conversation	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly .
Correct assumption (conceptual consciousness)	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) the impermanence of a relationship	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus apprehended correctly .

WRONG CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES

Since the main object of this type of conventional mind does not exist, the mind is a wrong consciousness and its main object cannot be realized, it can only be perceived.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
Wrong eye consciousness (sense consciousness)	perceiving	(e.g.) the horns of a rabbit	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently (and a rabbit appears to have horns). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not apprehended correctly .
Wrong conceptual consciousness	perceiving	(e.g.) a blue snow mountain	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently (and a white snow mountain appears to be blue). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not apprehended correctly .
Wrong conceptual consciousness	perceiving	(e.g.) the inherent existence of a friend	MISTAKEN because its main object appears to exist inherently (and a friend appears to exist inherently). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not apprehended correctly .